

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 15, 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claims 21-36 are pending in the case. Claims 21-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

By this Amendment, claims 21, 30, and 32-36 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections and to clarify some of the terminology in the claims. For the reasons set forth below, claims 21-36 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks, is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 21-36 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 21-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115, 416 to Katsman et al. ("Katsman").

For a prior art reference to anticipate, every element of the claimed invention must be identically disclosed in a single prior art reference; and those elements must be arranged or connected together in a single reference in the same way as specified in the patent claim. MPEP § 2131.

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner states that Applicant is arguing features not "necessitated by the claim limitations." (See page 5, paragraph 10). More specifically, the Examiner states that "[t]he claims do not recite a delay imposed **directly on a data stream communicated between several devices.**"

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 21 to recite "an exchange of data producing a data stream" and "a delay . . . introduced into the data stream" to address the Examiner's concerns. Support for this amendment can be found in the detailed description of the

specification, for example, in Figure 3 and pages 15-16. Accordingly, this amendment adds no new matter. Applicant has amended independent claims 30 and 32 and dependent claim 33 to be consistent with the terminology of claim 21.

Applicant submits that Katsman fails to disclose introducing a delay into a data stream as required by claim 21. To the contrary, Katsman discloses "insert[ing] a fixed and variable time delay into . . . subtone clock signals" (See column 2, lines 10-15). This difference is evident in Figure 7 of Katsman, where it shows a data signal that is separate from the delayed subtone clock signals. Applicant submits that delaying a "clock signal" differs significantly from introducing a delay into a "data stream." Applicant could not likely achieve the beneficial results disclosed in the present application by imposing a delay on a clock signal. Because Katsman does not teach a delay introduced into a "data stream," Katsman fails to anticipate independent claim 21.

Because independent claims 30 and 32 contain language similar to claim 21, Applicant asserts that Katsman fails to anticipate claims 30 and 32 for the same reasons cited above with respect to claim 21.

With respect to claims 22-29, 31, and 33-36, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over Katsman for at least the reason that they directly or indirectly depend from claims 21, 30, and 32.

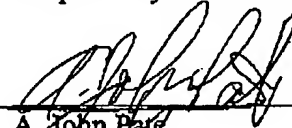
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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 21, 30, and 32-36 place the claims in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims, which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this 3rd day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,


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